



Fatalities and serious injuries can occur if cranes are not inspected and used properly. Many fatalities occur when the crane boom, load line or load contacts power lines and shorts electricity to ground. Other incidents happen when workers are struck by the load, are caught inside the swing radius, or fail to assemble/disassemble the crane properly.

Safe Work Practices

- Cranes must be operated only by qualified and trained personnel.
- A designated competent person must inspect the crane and all crane controls before use.
- Be sure the crane is on a firm/stable surface and level.
- During assembly/disassembly do not unlock or remove pins unless sections are blocked and stable.
- Fully extend outriggers and barricade accessible areas inside the crane's swing radius.
- Watch for overhead electric power lines and maintain at least a 10-foot safe working clearance from the lines.

- Inspect all rigging before use; do not wrap hoist lines around the load.
- Be sure to use the correct load chart for the crane's current configuration and setup, the load weight, and lift path.
- Do not exceed the load chart capacity while making lifts.
- Raise load a few inches, hold, verify capacity/balance, and test brake system before delivering load.
- Do not move loads over workers.
- Be sure to follow signals and manufacturer's instructions while operating cranes.

Adapted from OSHA Quick Card 3259-09R-05, U.S. Department of Labor.



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